

Ozark Swimming Officials Committee Meeting

Wednesday 9/4/2019

Members present: Steve Grimm, Bill Rener, Jeff Heveroh, Stephanie Petersen, Brian Perkins, Kim Weiss, Bruce Dreyer, Patty Draves

The meeting was called to order by Steve Grimm at 6:00 PM.

1. Andy Allman, vice chair of Ozark Swimming, will be attending the USA Swimming Convention in St. Louis September 10-15, 2019.
2. The committee will begin to keep minutes of its meetings.
3. USA Swimming plans to begin using national standardized officials training courses, instead of each LSC producing their own training materials. The date for implementation is unknown.
4. All USA Swimming officials will be required to complete concussion protocol training by 1/1/2020. There is a link to the online courses on the USA swimming website. Each official will need to send proof of completed training to Gussie Crawford so it can be added to their registration. Steve will send an email to the officials notifying them of this requirement.
5. 252 officials have applied to participate in the Olympic Trials in 2020, including 3 from Ozark.
6. Starting in September 2020 season all 12 and under swimmers will not be able to wear technical suits except at national events including Jr Nationals, US Open, and Olympic Trials.
7. Pacing goggles, with micro-computers that display splits, are illegal for competition.
8. Any officials interested in participating in the 2020 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships (Divisions I, II and III) should apply online by 5 Pm ET on Monday October 14th. In addition to the application an official must pass an online rules test.
9. There has been a decrease in the number of officials in Ozark LSC, and for some clubs it is difficult to find enough officials to run a meet. We discussed requiring each team that participates in a meet to provide officials from their team, in proportion to the number of swimmers from the team participating in the meet. Teams that fail to provide enough officials would be fined. We plan to discuss this again at the next meeting.
10. We discussed eliminating the \$30 fee to attend an officials training clinic. The money raised from the clinics is used for lanyards and nametags for all officials, whistles for deck refs, travel reimbursement for officials who work at sectional and national meets, and fees for officials to attend conventions and training workshops. At this time the committee has no other source of income so the fee must remain in place, although we would like to eliminate it in the future. Other ways to finance the committee will be discussed at a future meeting.
11. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing ways to streamline the current requirements for advancement as outlined in our current Certification Standards. Each level of official certification was discussed. The changes that were approved are as follows:
 - A. Allow S&T officials with enough sessions to take the CJ clinic the season after their certification at S&T, instead of making them wait for 1 year. The USA Swimming certifications require 1 year of certification as a S&T judge, but this will be accomplished as they complete their apprentice sessions for CJ.
 - B. Decrease the number of sessions required to advance to CJ from 16 to 12 and decrease the number of sessions at a meet hosted by another team from 6 to 4.

- C. Specify the number of apprentice sessions for CJ as at least 2, with at least 1 session during a competition where the majority of athletes are 12 and under.
 - D. Allow S&T officials to apply for advancement to starter the season after they complete S&T certification, instead of waiting for 1 year.
 - E. Continue to require 16 sessions at Ozark sanctioned meets for advancement to starter, but decrease the number of sessions at meets sanctioned by teams other than the official's team from 6 to 4.
 - F. Allow deck referees to become meet referees without working as an administrative referee.
12. We plan to standardize the timers' briefing given by the starters to help eliminate the variability in quality that currently exists. Bruce Dreyer will develop a standard briefing.
 13. We will ask officials to sign up in advance for their officials clinic with the host official, to help ensure that enough instructors are available.
 14. We discussed trying to retain Ozark officials by providing better parking, decreasing meet fees, etc. but none of these seemed feasible for now. We anticipate further discussion on retaining officials at the next meeting.
 15. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11/14/19 at 6 PM at Three Kings on Manchester.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Submitted by Stephanie Petersen